We claim:

1. An isolated IκB kinase (IKK) subunit, IKK-γ, comprising substantially the same amino acid sequence as SEQ ID NO: 2.

2. The isolated IKK-γ of claim 1, comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 55% amino acid identity with SEQ ID NO: 2.

3. The isolated IKK-γ of claim 1, comprising the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 2.

4. An IKK-γ active fragment, comprising substantially the same amino acid sequence as a portion of the IκB kinase subunit, IKK-γ.

5. The IKK-γ active fragment of claim 4, comprising at least ten contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 2.

6. The IKK-γ active fragment of claim 5, comprising at least twenty contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 2.

7. The IKK-γ active fragment of claim 6, comprising at least fifty contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 2.

8. The IKK-γ active fragment of claim 4, which is a dominant negative inhibitor of IKK activation.

9. The IKK-γ active fragment of claim 4, comprising amino acids 1 to 300 of SEQ ID NO: 2 (ΔC-IKK-γ(1-300).

10. The IKK-γ active fragment of claim 4, which has IKK-β binding activity.

11. An isolated IKK-γ nucleic acid molecule, comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding substantially the same amino acid sequence as SEQ ID NO: 2.

12. The isolated IKK-γ nucleic acid molecule of claim 11, comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence having at least 55% amino acid identity with SEQ ID NO: 2.

13. The isolated IKK-γ nucleic acid molecule of claim 11, comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 2.

14. The isolated IKK-γ nucleic acid molecule of claim 13, comprising nucleotides 149 to 1408 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

15. The isolated IKK-γ nucleic acid molecule of claim 13, comprising SEQ ID NO: 1.

16. A polynucleotide, comprising at least nine contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 1.

17. An antisense polynucleotide, comprising a nucleotide sequence complementary to at least nine contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 1.

18. A method of identifying an effective agent that modulates the specific association of an IκB kinase γ (IKK-γ) subunit and a second protein, comprising the steps of:

a) contacting the IKK-γ subunit and the second protein with an agent under conditions suitable for the specific association of said IKK-γ subunit and said second protein; and

b) detecting an altered association of said IKK-γ subunit and said second protein in the presence of said agent,

wherein said altered association identifies said agent as an effective agent that modulates the specific association of said IKK-γ subunit and said second protein.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein said contacting is *in vitro* and said IKK-γ subunit is isolated.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein said contacting is in a cell in culture.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein said cell is selected from the group consisting of a mammalian cell and a yeast cell.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein said altered association is detected by measuring the transcriptional activity of a reporter gene.

23. The method of claim 18, wherein said agent is an organic molecule.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein said agent is a peptide.

25. The method of claim 18, wherein said second protein is IKK-β.

26. A method of modulating NF-κB activity in a cell, comprising contacting the cell with an effective agent that modulates the specific association of an IKK-γ subunit and a second protein.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein said second protein is IKK-β.

28. A method of modulating NF-κB activity in a cell, comprising introducing into the cell an IKK-γ antisense polynucleotide.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein said IKK-γ antisense polynucleotide is expressed in the cell in a vector.